[10th October 1928

Appointment of depressed classes as presidents of local boards.

* 493 *Q.*—Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any member of the depressed classes has hitherto been appointed as the president of any local boards in the Presidency ; and

(*b*) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to appoint a few deserving ones ?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The question will be considered if suitable men are available, but there are only six local boards in all, which do not enjoy the right to elect their presidents.

Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*) of this question, may I know whether the hon. Minister has at any time made enquiries to ascertain whether members of the depressed classes are available to act as presidents ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" There are two district boards and four taluk boards which have got nominated presidents. As a matter of fact in one of these district boards the presidentship is now being thrown open to election. The Government are considering whether a man could be nominated. They did make an enquiry to ascertain whether a member of the depressed classes was available fit enough to be president of the board."

Grants for second-class roads in Ceded districts.

* 494 *Q.*—Mr. R. Nagan Gowda : In view of the assurance given by him on 24th January 1928, regarding the grants for second-class roads in Ceded districts, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the matter was placed before the Local Bodies Advisory Committee ;

(*b*) if so, whether the Committee agreed to the increase of grants ; and

(*c*) whether the Government now propose to grant higher amounts for the maintenance of second-class roads in the Ceded districts ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The matter has not yet been placed before the Advisory Committee.

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" May I know how soon the hon. Minister will be able to put the matter before the advisory committee ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I hope to place it at the beginning of next week when the advisory committee meets."

Introduction of Bills to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, etc.

* 495 *Q.*—The Zamindar of Gollapalli : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the amendments to the following Acts will be placed before the Council :—

(1) The Madras Local Boards Act.
(2) The Hindu Religious Endowments Act.
(3) The Village Panchayat Act.